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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chairman, NSCID Subcommittee III

DATE: 6 September 1955

FROM : Alternate CIA Representative

SUBJECT: Requirements for Exploitation of Soviet Scientific and
Technical Literature Not Now Being Met

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 1 July 1955 to members of the subject subcommittee and specifically to that portion of the attachment which estimates the professional manpower required to cover specific areas of exploitation in which there has been an expressed need and in which present assignments of manpower will not permit coverage.

2. I do not believe that these needs for additional manpower can be considered apart from earlier considerations of this committee, which resulted in the assignment of a substantial portion of the available manpower of your organization to a joint abstracting service--the service which provides for the abstracting of some 43 (19 FDD) Soviet scientific and technical journals in toto.

3. The records of the committee show consistent opposition by the CIA representative, myself, to the initiating of this abstracting service, and they record a dissent to the final action of approval. This position was based principally on the fact that the service was a very substantial duplication of that provided through other channels by commercial abstracting services. Moreover, in contrast with the position taken by the Air Force, the somewhat slower receipt of this information through commercial channels was not an important factor in the analysis activities of the Agency.

4. At the time of these deliberations, no consideration was given to what effect the assignment of manpower for this abstracting service would have on the other demands for service both within the Agency and FDD's responsibilities to provide other services of common concern. It was generally agreed by the committee that these factors were not clearly defined at the time and that, therefore, a trial period should be approved. CIA representative reluctantly agreed.

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5. It now appears that the assignment of manpower to this joint ~~machine~~ service is conflicting with other equally important demands for the same personnel. It, therefore, seems to me incumbent upon the committee to review again the present demands for the various types of exploitation in the scientific and technical area, assess their relative importance, and determine whether it may not be possible to avoid recommendations for increased manpower assignment. As the principal Agency representative in this area, I would be unwilling to endorse any increase in the manpower involved until such a determination has been made.

6. The reasons for my original opposition to the joint abstracting proposal have not changed and I am firmly convinced that a reconsideration by the analytical components of the Agency would uphold the same position taken before.

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7. I am submitting this separate statement after discussions with [REDACTED] and with his approval. It is requested that the substance of these comments be presented to the Committee officially.

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